



**October 2016**

**NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK**

## Upcoming Events

**October 1st & 2nd**  
Harvest Haunt Trains  
Theme: *'Monster Mash'*

**October 8**  
Apple Harvest Day

**October 8 & 9**  
Harvest Haunt Trains  
Theme: *'Critters & Creatures'*

**October 15 & 16**  
The Harvest Haunt Express  
Theme: *'Superheroes & Villains'*

**October 22nd & 23rd**  
The Harvest Haunt Express  
Theme: *'Pirates & Princess's'*

**October 22nd**  
'Spooky Tales of the Roundhouse' 6pm-9pm

**October 29th & 30th**  
The Harvest Haunt Express  
Theme: *'Witches & Wizards'*

## **Polar Express Ticket Sales**

Monday, October 10th  
Sales to Staff & Volunteers  
Tuesday, October 11th  
Sales to Railtown Members  
Wednesday, October 12th  
Sales to CSRM Members  
Thursday, October 13th  
Sales to General Public

**November 11, 2016**  
Veteran's Day Trains  
(all veterans ride free!)

**Polar Express Train Dates**  
**November 30**  
(dress rehearsal trial run)  
**December 2, 3, & 4**  
**December 9, 10, 11**  
**December 17, 18, 19**

## **Introducing Jackie Olavarria, our New Supervising Ranger for Railtown 1897**

**JAMESTOWN, Calif.** – California State Parks Capital District has named Jackie Olavarria as the new Supervising Ranger for Railtown 1897 State Historic Park (SHP). The announcement was made by Matt Bellah, California State Parks District Superintendent Capital District, and is effective on September 6, 2016.

Jackie joins Railtown 1897 SHP most recently from Columbia State Historic Park (SHP) and has worked as a Ranger or Supervising Ranger with State Parks for approximately 11 years. In addition to Columbia SHP, Olavarria has an extensive experience working at State Parks sites that include Hollister Hills State Vehicle Recreation Area, Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area, Auburn State Recreation Area, Brannan Island State Recreation Area, and Patrick's Point State Park.

"We are excited to have Jackie joining the Capital District team and we look forward to her starting her new assignment at Railtown," said Bellah. "Her impressive and varied background with California State Parks and the breadth of operational knowledge she brings with her will be a valuable asset to the Capital District and to Railtown."



### **A Note From Jackie:**

**I wanted to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received so far here at the park. I have noticed the dedication from Volunteers at Railtown is well above and beyond and the park comes to life when you are here. I look forward to working with each of you as I step into my new role as the Supervising Ranger for Railtown 1897 SHP.**



Janet & Hal Montano with  
Karen McMahon as  
'Witches & Wizards'



Young folks enjoying  
the Harvest Haunt Trains



Jerry Lewis and  
Warren Zimmerman  
showing off their  
Skeleton T-Shirts

## Making Your Tour Relevant to The Visitors

(from Jeri Zemon/ Park Interpretive Specialist)

One of the goals of interpretation is getting our visitors to care about parks enough to support them. In the case of Railtown 1897 State Historic Park this may mean explaining to visitors why the Sierra Railway is an important part of California history. Of course as volunteers you know that the Sierra Railway opened Tuolumne County up to the rest of the world. The Railway unlocked the natural resources of the county by delivering timber, apples and gold ore to the regional railroads. But SO WHAT?! That's "ancient history". Why should an old rail yard with spare train parts be a California State Park? That's the challenge for an interpreter at a historical site. One way to be relevant is to find out what your audience has in common with the railroad and the people that worked for it.

Near the end of my Roundhouse tour I like to pose a question to the audience. I ask them, "Can you think of how a short line rail road is connected to your daily life?" During my conclusion, I repeat the question. Many times the audience can't think of how a short line is connected to their modern world. So I explain how the goods that were delivered may be used in their home. At that point I have already spoken about the timber, gold ore, damn projects and apples during my tour. So now I tell them that perhaps the gold in their jewelry or the wood frames in their home may have been delivered by a short line railroad. Now hopefully I have answered the SO WHAT question.

Next time you think about your Roundhouse tour, ask yourself how you can make it more relevant to our visitors. Consider what you say to them and ask SO WHAT? Ideally, they will walk away with a greater appreciation of why Railtown 1897 is preserved as State Park.



## Introducing Cindy Deutsch Senior Park Aide

Please make welcome Cindy who has joined us from Columbia State Park to take over the volunteer coordinating position until a permanent replacement is found. Cindy is a long time resident of Tuolumne County (38 years), married with 2 grown boys. She formerly had worked in the Tuolumne County Assessor's office until joining State Parks in 2015. In Columbia she worked in visitor services, doing everything from tour guiding to feeding the chickens, pest management to working at the City Hotel front desk. We hope you all will work with Cindy as she gets to know all of our volunteers at Railtown and all the nuances of the coordinator job. (and by the way, yes she is David Deutsch's niece!)





*Featured Photographs  
By  
Volunteer Photographer  
Linda Hogue*







**PO Box 1250**  
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**Return Service Requested**



**TO:**

**Depot Store-** (209) 984-3953  
**Railtown Website:** [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org)  
**Volunteer Website-** <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>  
**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)  
**Newsletter Editor—** [Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov)  
**Crew Caboose-** (209) 984-0352

**Railtown 1897 & The California State Railroad Museum Foundation thanks our following business members:**



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**Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*(all area codes are 209, except where noted)*

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*Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request*